India has to depend on International Rice Research Institute, Manila, Phillippines and Centre for International Wheat and Maize Development, Mexico for germ plasm of paddy and wheat respectively. The achievement of the green revolution has come about basically through transfer of good traits (characters) from the material obtained from Dwarf Rice and Dwarf Wheat from these International Institutes.

Construction of cold storage in Tripura

1054. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cultivators of Tripura produce bumper quantity of green rabi crops, every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the surplus green crops cannot be preserved for shortage of cold storages; and

(c) whether the Central Government would provide funds to construct new cold storages at strategic places in Tripura, as demanded under NEC programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per available information, the production of fruits and vegetables in Tripura during last two years is as under:

(000' MT)

Year	Fruits	Vegetables
1999-2000	372.1	232.8
2000-01	450.8	328.1

For preservation of surplus produce adequate post-harvest handling/cold storage facilities are essential.

(c) The Government of India, through National Horticulture Board (NHB), is providing financial assistance to promote post-harvest handling/cold storage facilities in the country including Tripura. The NHB under its scheme "Capital Investment subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storage/ Storage for Horticulture Produce" has provided subsidy amounting to Rs. 279.40 lakhs for creating 18,500 MT cold storage facilities in Tripura since December, 1999. The Scheme is project based under which a subsidy @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakhs per project is given. However, for North-Eastern States including Sikkim, a higher subsidy @33.33% of the project cost with a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakhs per project is provided.